

SA 4 DMH Regional Center Collaborative Meeting Presents on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Youth

By Han Li, LCSW



Left to right: Makesha Jones-Chambers and Erica Reynoso.

The Service Area 4 LACDMH Regional Center Collaborative Meeting hosted a training on Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and Youth at Lanterman Regional Center on March 22, 2016.

Erica Reynoso, L.C.S.W., Ph.D. and Makesha Jones-Chambers, Psy.D., Project Leads from the LACDMH TAY Division CSEC Initiatives and Efforts, presented on the facts, demographics, and statistics of CSEC Youth, and on countywide efforts among the court system, District Attorney's Office, Probation, DCFS, DMH, Police Department, and Sheriff's Department to identify and work with this special high-risk population.

Upcoming trainings on CSECY were announced. DMH SA4 Specialized Foster Care clinician Han Li presented on a recent CSEC case, including extensive DCFS history, Regional Center history, multiple running away and CSEC incidents, as well as significant mental health symptoms and psychiatric hospitalizations. Strategies on how to engage and assess such a child were shared. The audience included representatives from DMH, DCFS, the District Attorney, Regional Center, and community mental health

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agencies. A lively discussion ensued on how to collaborate with each other and increase the exchange of information among all stake holders.

For more information about the LACDMH CSEC Initiative and Efforts and on upcoming trainings, please contact Erica Reynoso, Ph.D., LCSW at ereynoso@dmh.lacounty.gov or Makesha Jones-Chambers, Psy.D. at mjoneschambers@dmh.lacounty.gov.

For more information about SA 4 DMH and Regional Center Collaborative Meeting, please contact: Mary Bakchachyan, MHC II at mbakchachyan@dmh.lacounty.gov.